

NEWS FROM The Inland See

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

January 23–29, 2021

Social justice best served by 'choosing to build strong and loving relationships'

This article originally ran in the Winter 2020 Issue of Vermont Catholic.

“Social justice” is often considered to be physical acts of mercy, such as providing food and housing, promoting racial equality and making employment opportunity available. And indeed serving the most vulnerable among us is vital to living out our faith.

But Catholic social justice and teaching encompass much more.

Our Church has a rich treasure of wisdom and writings regarding social justice. There are three major principles of social justice that particularly relate to therapy and counseling work:

- 1. Life and dignity of the person**, often stated to be the foundation of all the principles of social teaching.
- 2. The call to family**, community and participation, seeking together the common good and wellbeing of all.
- 3. Solidarity**, pursuit of justice and peace, recognizing others as our brothers and sisters, building relationships.

I suggest that social justice is best served by choosing to build strong and loving relationships, first within our families and then spreading out locally and globally. We are made to be in union with God and one another; our very beings yearn for connection, to be known and loved and respected. Choosing to love ourselves and others, giving and forgiving, and forging deep, abiding relationships is the basis for a just society.

Recognizing the dignity of every person is integral to shaping how we perceive ourselves and those around us. We are all equal in our worth and value, regardless of ability, race, ethnicity, faith, age, struggles and viewpoints.

And then we choose to take care of relationships within our families, friendships and communities. We choose to see our own needs and desires and at the same time take care of the needs of others as best we can, especially considering the emotional and relational yearnings of ourselves, our spouses,

children, friends and neighbors (next door and across the sea). We choose to make sacrifices in order to respect and connect with the other. We offer calming and peaceful words in order to understand and be understood. We recognize that authentic dialogue is more important than winning the fight. We look on the other with compassion. We make time for meaningful and safe conversation. We avoid name-calling, over-generalizations, negative filters and all-or-nothing thinking.

We all deserve fairness, reliability, loyalty and respect, and we owe these to others as well. When we make dialogue and connection a priority, the physical acts of justice and serving the poor become a natural outpouring toward those around us, whether that be our family, friends or neighbors. The joy and satisfaction that we find in building relationships and becoming community will fuel ever-increasing acts of justice.

— *Sharon Trani, Therapist for Vermont Catholic Charities Inc.*



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40%

As of Jan. 12: \$4,041,430

Goal: \$9,582,456

Upcoming Events



01|26, 27 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Learn About Walking with Purpose at The Art of Creating Community: A Virtual Event

via Zoom • 7 pm or 11 am

Do you have a heart for other women and a desire to bring them together in the parish... to meet women where they are and help draw them closer to Christ? This online Zoom information session will introduce you to Walking with Purpose, a women's Catholic Bible study program now offered at over 400 parishes throughout the US. For more information please contact Elizabeth.Durastanti@walkingwithpurpose.com. 917-714-8015

Register: walkingwithpurpose.com/events/



01|27 WEDNESDAY

Family & Faith in the Home

via Zoom • 8 - 9:30 pm

Parents are invited to attend this interactive webinar sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester with guest speakers Mike and Alicia Herson of the Messy Family Project. The topic is "Evangelizing Your Children."

Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/family-faith-in-the-home/



01|31 SUNDAY

Envision Life

via Zoom • 6 - 8 pm

Join us for a virtual pro-life event live-streamed from Saint John Vianney Church in S. Burlington. The evening will begin with prayer and adoration and will be followed by two presentations, by Molly Sheahan, Associate Director for Respect Life Advocacy at Maryland Catholic Conference and Krista Corbello, Founder of Even This Way.

Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/envision-life/



02|07 SUNDAY

Marriage Day Mass with Bishop Coyne

Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington • 10 am

Join Bishop Coyne for a special Mass to honor and celebrate sacramental marriages with significant anniversaries (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2021. Given the health restrictions this year, there will be a limit of 20 couples to be recognized in person at this Mass. Couples can bring up to 6 family members with them (a total of 8). Registrations will be accepted through January 28, 2021.

Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-day-mass-with-bishop-coyne-2/



JAN. 24-30, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

TAKE TIME TO THINK BACK TO YOUR WEDDING DAY.

Share with each other one memory that made you laugh or cry and explain why. What advice would you give couples who are preparing for marriage this year? Share your advice with Terri McCormack at tmccormack@vermontcatholic.org.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

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2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



Thank you to all those who have made a gift already. We are more than 20% behind our goal and ask those that can to please consider making a gift. You can make a gift online: vermontcatholic.org/donate

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

81%

As of January 12, 2021: \$2,157,355